



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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UKRAINE

Make Parenting a Pleasure

On February 10-13, USAID's *Families for Children Program* held a training for regional and national trainers on parental skills. Participants received certifications from the State Institute of Family and Youth as trainers.



New edition of training curriculum on parental skills development for the *Make Parenting a Pleasure* program.

Make Parenting a Pleasure is a part of a series of trainings conducted by *Families for Children Program* to strengthen the capacity of newly established Regional Training Centers in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Odesa and Cherkasy Oblasts. It is based on a program developed in 1983 in Eugene, Oregon. In 2006, the *Families for Children Program* adapted the program to meet the needs of Ukrainian families. *Make Parenting a Pleasure* provides parents with an opportunity to develop communication and stress-management skills; promotes a positive approach to children and discipline. The program also addresses factors that contribute to

child abuse and neglect, including lack of appropriate information, parents' low self-esteem, feelings of isolation, unrealistic expectations and misperceptions about child development and parenting.

The International Day of Corporate Philanthropy Celebrated for the First Time in Ukraine

On February 23, the Ukrainian Philanthropist Forum held a press conference on *Corporate Philanthropy: Recipes from the Crisis*, featuring the UNDP Global Compact Network, Philips and USAID's partner UNITER as keynote presenters. Attended by journalists, businesses and NGO representatives, the event marked the International Day of Corporate Philanthropy for the first time in Ukraine.

The conference focused on a number of relevant issues in the current financial context: How does the economic crisis influence charitable activities of business? What should Ukrainians expect from philanthropists in the near future? What are characteristics of a true socially responsible company? How to construct a strategy reflecting these intentions?

All speakers agreed that the crisis would not hinder further development of corporate philanthropy. Indeed, the crisis was seen as an opportunity for all sectors to seek more effective philanthropic efforts: for businesses - to think strategically and make longer term-plans, for the charitable sector to stimulate its professionalization. The participants were confident that the crisis would trigger new partnerships and blending of available resources from all sectors of society.

USAID Launches a New Municipal Energy GDA Project in Alchevsk

On January 27, a new USAID Global Development Alliance (GDA) project, *Affordable District Heating and Energy-Efficient Residential Sector*, was launched in Alchevsk.

USAID has established a partnership with the Alchevsk City Development Fund, the Alchevsk Municipality, the Municipal Development Institute (MDI), and several other organizations to help the city improve its municipal heating system.



MDI signed the Agreement on Cooperation with the City of Alchevsk, City Development Fund, Alchevsk District Heating Enterprise, Alchevsk Housing Maintenance Association.

The program aims to develop a viable mechanism to fund energy efficiency improvements in residential buildings. Municipal Development Institute specialists, will study the city district heating system, assess energy saving potential, and impact of the gas price increase on the most vulnerable groups of consumers.

Affordable District Heating is a follow-on activity to the *Efficient Water Supply in Alchevsk* GDA implemented in 2008. The former project contributed to cutting water losses and laid the foundation for extending support to the heating sector.

USAID's Public-Private Partnership Training Program Hosts the First Training on Public Private Partnerships

On January 20-22, 2009, USAID conducted the first training on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) techniques for a group of 63 officials from Ukraine. The event took place at the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) in Kyiv. USAID's Deputy Mission Director, Sarah Wines, opened the workshop.

A Public-Private Partnership is an agreement between the government and the private sector, which focuses on delivering needed public services. PPPs require private contractors to invest either time, technology, or money to

deliver services in a variety of sectors, such as transportation infrastructure, energy, water treatment and distribution, solid waste management, school buildings, hospitals.

USAID plans to conduct three additional PPP trainings in other cities across Ukraine over the next eight months. Additionally, the project plans to launch a website and initiate a Journal to publish analyses of PPP projects and issues in Ukraine. It will also develop a Manual of PPP Guidelines and sponsor an international study tour to learn from the PPP experiences in other European countries.

Simferopol Catches Train to Economic Future

Simferopol has become the 77-th Ukrainian city to draft an economic development strategy with assistance of USAID's *Local Economic Development Project*.



USAID Deputy Mission Director Sarah Wines (left) and Simferopol Mayor Hennadiy Babenko (right) signed a Memorandum of Understanding between USAID and the Simferopol City Rada

(Photo by Boris Vasilyev, [Krymskoye Ekho](#))

USAID Deputy Mission Director, Sarah Wines, and Simferopol Mayor, Hennadiy Babenko, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 17 to "support the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan of Economic Development in Simferopol in the spirit of cooperation and mutual interest."

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Babenko said: "Our American friends have seriously studied the situation in Simferopol and Crimea as a whole and offered us assistance to develop a strategy for our city."

LED Project Chief of Party Howard Ockman said: "We're happy that we can apply the

lessons and knowledge we've gained from four years working with Ukrainian cities to the unique opportunities that we expect Simferopol to seize and succeed with."

The Expert Committee is scheduled to meet on March 24. Until then, the project will compile a Simferopol Community Profile and conduct a Business Attitude Survey based on face-to-face interviews with managers and owners of largest local enterprises, and small and medium businesses. Survey results will be used by the expert committee for strategic planning.

Simferopol is the sixth city on the peninsula to hammer out its economic strategy with assistance of USAID's LED project. Earlier, the project helped draft strategic plans in Armyansk, Dzhankoy, Krasnoperekopsk, Yevpatoria and Sevastopol.

NGO Discuss Ukraine's Domestic and International Drug Policy

The Roundtable *Power of Drug Policy or Drug Policy of Power!?* took place on February 18, organized by the *International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine* with financial support of the *Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)*. Twenty professionals and experts, drug policy activists, drug-dependent persons and their relatives participated in the roundtable.



At the Roundtable.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations noted that domestic and international drug policies in Ukraine need to be more transparent. Experts, drug policy activists and their relatives have to be more involved into the development and execution of policies to ensure proper quality, low price and to avoid corruption in the process of drugs procurement.

The roundtable participants issued a resolution, which lists pressing issues, to be raised by the

Ukrainian delegation at the 52nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs expected to take place in Vienna (Austria) in March 11-20, 2009.

The main points of resolution seek to insure: transparency in formulating and executing of domestic drug policy; effective civil society control over implementation of state drug policy; and scaling up substitution maintenance therapy programs for patients with opioid dependency.

FSR NPF Round Table Solicits Industry Input on Pension Reform

"Ukraine's non-state pension funds (NPF) have shown remarkable resilience," observed CMP Senior Pension Expert Gary Hendricks, speaking at a roundtable on Non-State Pension Provision Issues co-sponsored by USAID's *Capital Markets Project* and the State Commission for Regulation of Financial Services Markets (FSR).

The purpose of the roundtable was to solicit comments from market participants on draft regulations on NPF operations and asset diversification during the recession, and plans for the pension disclosure system. Over 120 representatives of NPFs, NPF administrators, custodians and regulators attended the event.

Roundtable on Elimination of Mandatory Credit Rating in Ukraine

On February 18, the *Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs*, with support from USAID's *Access to Credit Initiative* and the *Association of Ukrainian Cities*, held a roundtable discussion on eliminating mandatory credit ratings. The roundtable aimed to promote a competitive rating industry based on open and fair competition.

Currently, the ratings are assigned only by the Ukrainian legal entity, *Credit Rating*, that received this authority from the Ukrainian Securities Exchange Commission in 2004.

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M O L D O V A

USAID Project Recognized by the UN

The United Nations Special Unit for South-South Cooperation recognized USAID's program *Better Opportunities for Youth and Women* on December 19, as one of six best programs implemented by UNDP in 2008. The award was presented at the U.N. Headquarters in New York.



Viorel Albu, Director of the *Better Opportunities for Youth and Women* project (left) accepts the UNDP award.

The *Better Opportunities Project* is working to establish a network of self-sustaining educational centers for vulnerable women and youth. The project seeks to reduce trafficking vulnerability among graduates of state boarding schools, and orphans, and returned trafficking victims. In addition to affordable accommodations, free health services and counseling, the project also provides training opportunities to prepare beneficiaries for future employment and successful community (re)integration.

New Electronic Information System to Reduce Opportunities for Corruption

USAID/Moldova's *Business Regulatory and Tax Administration Reform Project* launched the Electronic Information System designed to limit opportunities for corruption and streamline tax administration at the Moldovan Licensing Chamber. The new system allows businesses to submit one application instead of applying and receiving individual approvals from 20 different government agencies. Using this new system, the Licensing Chamber sends electronic requests to all relevant government agencies, thereby reducing the number of face-to-face

interactions - and opportunities for corruption. USAID also developed a new electronic guide that lists all requirements for obtaining a license, which increases transparency and eliminates discretionary actions in the licensing process.

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B E L A R U S

New Eurasia Establishment Provides Training to Legal Clinicians

In December, Vitebsk State University hosted a seminar for law students on client interview techniques as part of USAID's *Legal Clinics Development* program.

Eight students and eight coordinators from the Polatsk State University legal clinic joined their Vitebsk peers to enhance their professional skills and share best practices in providing legal assistance to vulnerable groups.



Legal students at the seminar.

Since 2007, USAID has been implementing the *Students Legal Clinics Program* in partnership with the New Eurasia Establishment's (NEE).

As part of the program's second stage, four university clinics in Hrodna, Brest, Gomel and Vitebsk have already received assistance to build their organizational and program capacity to provide legal advice to single-parents and poor families, youth, pensioners, and other vulnerable groups.

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